9. Shivaji Peth-Jat	Distt.	Sangli
10. Umbarde		(Upgradation of EDBO to DSO)
11. Servade		(Upgradation of EDSO to DSO)
12. Khardi, Chadanagar	Distt.	Pune
13. Dattawadi	Distt.	Pune
14. Dahanukar Colony	Distt.	Pune
15. Kurha		(Upgradation of FDSO to DSO) Distt. Amraoti.

PCOs in Punjab

6. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs functioning in Punjab, district-wise, at present;

(b) the criteria followed for installation of PCOs; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to install more PCOs particularly in the border areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, The information is furnished in the enclosed statement (*See below*).

(b) STD PCOs are allotted to the educated unemployed persons by the PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official membes one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for Urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen and War widows.
4. Retired OOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) More number of PCOs are being installed in the State of Punjab by way of augmenting/adding equipped capacities of different exchanges including the border areas subject to availability of equipment and funds.

Statement

Name of Telecom.	Local	PCOs STD
1. Amritsar	859	1351
2. Bhthinda	253	514
3. Chandigarh	662	1646
4. Ferozepur	888	950
5. Hoshiarpur	286	952
6. Jallandhar	562	2504
7. Ludhiana	1480	2547
8. Patiala	455	922
9. Pathankot	162	675
10. Ropar	89	284
11. Sangrur	499	649

STD/ISD Booths in Punjab

7. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD booths functioning in Punjab at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite of an increase in their demand, Government